A Fraternity Handbook

for

Freshmen

AT THE

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Agricultural

and

Technical Institute

Alfred, New York
INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this booklet is to inform you, the Ag-Tech freshmen, about the fraternity rushing procedure on this campus before rushing has started and the men have begun visiting the various houses. Following are brief sketches of the histories of the fraternities and the rushing rules which govern the action of fraternities and freshmen during the rushing season.

It is the hope of the Ag-Tech fraternities:

Kappa Sigma Epsilon
Psi Delta Omega
Theta Gamma

that this booklet will help you to understand the fraternity system and to enable you to decide intelligently upon your fraternity affiliation.

AG TECH INTERFRATERNITY
STEERING COMMITTEE

Theta Gamma Fraternity was founded at the New York State School of Agriculture at Canton, N. Y., on January 15, 1920. Since then, eight chapters have been founded in Morrisville, Alfred, Delhi, Cobleskill, Farmingdale, Utica, Rochester and Buffalo.

The Gamma Chapter was founded in Alfred, March 19, 1920. Mr. P. B. Orvis, present director of the Institute, was one of the charter members, and was first Vice President of the chapter.

Due to the necessity to increase room and house facilities in 1951, the fraternity was moved to our present location on Elm Street.

In 1955 Gamma Theta Gamma dropped from the state-wide membership and became Gamma Theta Gamma, Alpha Chapter.

The fraternity is set up on the basis of a corporation with directors, officers, and special standing committees. The corporation meets to decide any large issues that present a problem to the fraternity.

Each year our chief aim is to promote a continued feeling of fraternity spirit by modernizing house facilities, keeping good social relations, and benefiting all concerned.
Kappa Sigma Epsilon fraternity was founded at Alfred in January, 1953 as Alpha Tau Fraternity. On March 28, 1953, we were initiated into Kappa Sigma Kappa National Fraternity as the New York Epsilon Chapter. We left the national fraternity on October 11, 1954 and changed our name to Kappa Sigma Epsilon.

Our fraternity house was located at 273 N. Main Street from September 1953 to June 1955. We moved into our present quarters at 8 Elm Street in September of 1955 to be right on the campus. An addition was added during the past year to increase accommodations.

It is the belief of Kappa Sigma Epsilon that the pledging period should be beneficial to the pledge as well as to the fraternity. This is the foundation of our helping rather than hazing during the pledge period.

Kappa Sigma Epsilon is a young fraternity consisting of men who are constantly striving to build a house with an admirable reputation. We feel that recognition in social, scholastic, and athletic activities is attainable through co-operation of the members stemming from a feeling of true brotherhood.

In the fall of 1939, twelve members of the Ag-Tech student body approached Mr. Orvis in the hope of starting a fraternity. Through the combined efforts of Mr. Orvis and these twelve students, headed by Robert Cleary, the Beta Chapter of Kappa Delta Sigma was officially installed on January 27, 1940. The fraternity first moved to its present site at 14 South Main Street on May 20, 1940. The name Kappa Delta Sigma was changed to Psi Delta Omega on May 16, 1949, thus starting the beginning of a new national chapter.

Each year, many of the members of Psi Delta Omega are active in such school activities as class government, scholastic and departmental clubs, student government, and varsity sports. Strong participation in house signs, parade floats, snow sculpturing, and intramural sports is also shown by the members of Psi Delta.

The purpose of Psi Delta is to promote and establish the feeling of good fellowship among the brothers and to extend this feeling throughout the school and community.
COORDINATED PLEDGE RULES

1. Fraternities should sponsor a smoker within the third week after starting the new school year to acquaint all new freshmen with the ideals and responsibilities of Fraternity life.

2. A second meeting should be sponsored by Ag-Tech Fraternities at the beginning of the second quarter to refresh and educate eligible men in preparation for pledging to Fraternities.

3. An Open House should closely follow the second smoker at the beginning of the second quarter to acquaint potential pledges with facilities of each Fraternity.

4. No man may be rushed by a Fraternity unless he has completed at least one quarter of school work at Alfred and has a cumulative index of at least 1.0 in his present major. These indexes will be checked by a disinterested person and a report made to the Steering Committee.

5. Seniors, already abiding by rule 4, may be pledged the first quarter of their senior year and may become Fraternity members prior to the beginning of the second quarter according to mutual agreement of all Ag-Tech Fraternities.

6. Pledge committees of all Ag-Tech Fraternities should get together within a week after the start of a new school year to come to mutual agreement on senior pledging and any unforeseen circumstances pertaining to both Frosh pledging and pledging policies as a whole, especially when not covered by these general pledging rules.

7. Rules pertaining to individual initiations such as "Four Walls," formal initiations, etc., should necessarily be kept within respective Fraternity jurisdiction instead of combining into one uniform method of accepting new members. Matters bordering on this category shall be decided upon by mutual agreement of all Ag-Tech Fraternities.

8. All prospective Fraternity members complying with rule 4, may start pledging after preferential night and for the major course of the full second quarter or first quarter when seniors. All indexes will again be checked at the end of two weeks pledging by a committee of one from each Fraternity and all students with a cumulative index of less than 1.0 will be dropped automatically from the pledge program.

9. Hell week shall be for a period of not more than one week's time. Items composed of formal initiations, "Four Walls," and other functions pertaining to formal acceptance of pledges into a Fraternity should necessarily be conducted near the end of the pledging season. However, it is suggested that these formal functions be completed either before or after the week designated for quarterly exams.

10. It is suggested that only Fraternity members shall live in the Fraternity house with this one exception: In the event that a school year starts and due to unforeseen and uncontrollable events there are some vacancies in the house, it can be allowable to have selected non-members reside in the house with the following stipulations:

   A. Non-members are not obligated to join the Fraternity.

   B. The Fraternity is not obligated in any way to accept non-member residents into the Fraternity.

   C. The Fraternity can ask a non-member to leave the Fraternity house if his conduct is in any way detrimental to Fraternity policies.

   D. The continued residence of such men shall be subject to the joint action of active and honorary groups.

11. If a member transfers to another college on this campus he may not hold office, but he may live in the house, subject to the action of the membership.

12. No pledge season shall last for more than three weeks.

13. No Fraternity shall have a total membership at one time of more than 100 active members.

14. These rules are effective after the approval of the Director and joint steering committee. Also any amendments must be approved by the above.